

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 FILE-01 SSO-00 ADP-00 /018 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072074

TODEP 74

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION TEHRAN INFO SEOUL TOKYO USUNNY
GENEVA APRIL 18, FROM SECSTATE REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072074

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, KN, KS

SUBJ: IRANIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

REF: SEOUL 2123, 2368, TEHRAN 590, 1095

1. ASSUMING YOU PERCEIVE NO OBJECTIONS TO THE CONTRARY AND
ASSUMING ROKG HAS MADE REPRESENTATIONS IN THE APPROPRIATE
QUARTERS, YOU ARE REQUESTED TO APPROACH THE GOI AT WHAT-
EVER LEVEL YOU DEEM SUITABLE REQUESTING IT TO RECONSIDER
EARLY RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA IN LIGHT OF THE FOLLOWING:

A. DESPITE OBSTACLES INVOLVED CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS
BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH OFFER CONSIDERABLE PROMISE OF RE-
DUCING TENSIONS ON KOREAN PENINSULA AND CONSEQUENTLY
NORTHEAST ASIA. THESE NEGOTIATIONS WERE UNDERTAKEN AT
INITIATIVE OF SOUTH, WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN MORE AMENABLE TO
COMPROMISE NECESSARY TO FURTHER PROGRESS OF TALKS. SUPPORT
OF KOREA BY FRIENDS AND ALLIES HAS BEEN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT
IN LEADING ROK TO PURSUE TALKS.

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B. WE CONCERNED THAT RECENT NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATIC
SUCCESS IN ACHIEVING RECOGNITION BY SEVERAL ROK FRIENDS
HAS RESULTED IN PYONGYANG' S FEELING ITS POSITION STRENGTH-
ENED VIS- A- VIS ROK AND HAS MADE NORTH LESS FORTHCOMING

IN NORTH/ SOUTH TALKS. NORTH HAS BEEN BLOCKING PROGRESS IN TALKS SINCE BEGINNING 1973, AND HAS REVERTED TO HARD- LINE WHICH WAS IN EVIDENCE BEFORE TALKS STAAD BEEN MAKING DETERMINED EFFORT TO IMPROVE IMAGE OF UGANDA, ESPECIALLY ABROAD, AND WITHDRAWAL OF A MAJOR POWER LIKE U. S. WOULD BE A BLOW AT THIS TIME. ETIANG ASKED JOHNSON, POINT BLANK: (A) WHAT WERE REASONS FOR DETERIORATING RELATIONS BETWEEN U. S. AND UGANDA; AND (B) WHETHER AID WAS IN FACT WITHDRAWING, AND IF SO, WHY.

2. JOHNSON RESPONDED THAT IT WAS NOT WITHIN HIS COMPETENCE TO DISCUSS U. S.- UGANDAN RELATIONS, A SUBJECT THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN UP WITH CHARGE. REGARDING AID HE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) IN WHATEVER DECISIONS U. S. MADE HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY BRITISH INFLUENCE.

(B) THREE AID PROJECTS WERE PHASING OUT BY JUNE 30 AND THEIR 15 TECHNICIANS HAD LEFT OR WERE PREPARING TO LEAVE.

(C) PRESIDENT AMIN' S " ECONOMIC WAR" HAD CREATED NEW ECONOMY WITH NEW PRIORITIES AND NEW PEOPLE TO DEAL WITH, WHICH MIGHT CALL FOR A DISCONTINUANCE OF OPERATIONS BY FOREIGN AID DONORS UNTIL THERE HAD BEEN A SETTLING OF ECONOMY.

(D) AMIN' S CABLES TO WASHINGTON WERE CAUSE OF MAJOR DIFFICULTY WHENEVER CONTINUATION OF AID WAS DISCUSSED.

(E) SECURITY CONDITIONS IN COUNTRY MADE OUR TECHNICIANS (AND THEIR UGANDAN COUNTERPARTS) AFRAID TO TRAVEL. RESULT WAS WE WERE SPENDING GOOD DEAL OF MONEY ON SALARIES, ETC., WITH VERY LITTLE BENEFIT TO UGANDA OR OURSELVES.

3. JOHNSON STRESSED ESPECIALLY OUR SECURITY CONCERNS. IN RESPONSE ETIANG WENT INTO CONSIDERABLE DETAIL ABOUT DISRUPTIONS CAUSED BY MILITARY TAKE- OVER AND UNPLANNED NATURE OF ECONOMIC WAI. ALSO DETAILED AMIN' S EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH HIS MILITARY, TO IMPROVE SECURITY AND TO BETTER UGANDA' S IMAGE ABROAD. IN MUCH THE SAME TERMS HE USED WITH CHARGE, ETIANG CLAIMED CIVILIAN CABINET WAS HAVING INFLUENCE ON AMIN AND WAS ENCOURAGING HIM TO BRING THE MILITARY UNDER CONTROL. HE ALSO ARGUED THAT PRESIDENT WAS NOT TO BLAME FOR MANY THINGS THAT OCCUR WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE, OWING TO MISBEHAVIOR OF UNRULY MILITARY. ETIANG EXPRESSED HOPE USG WOULD TAKE LONG- RANGE VIEW OF UGANDA, NOT FOCUSSING ON CURRENT STRESSES, STRAINS AND PROBLEMS, BUT LOOKING RATHER AT CONFIDENTIAL

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GOU' S ATTEMPTS TO IMPROVE SITUATION.

4. ETIANG ALSO ASKED JOHNSON' S ADVICE AND EVALUATION OF GOU' S GROWING RELATIONS WITH BLACK AMERICANS, FOR EXAMPLE, CORE GROUP WHICH RECENTLY VISITED UGANDA. JOHNSON RESPONDED THAT HE HAD TOLD MR. INNIS IT WOULD BE A DISSERVICE TO UGANDA TO RAISE AMIN' S

EXPECTATIONS OF ASSISTANCE TO LEVECS THAT COULD NOT BE FULFILLED, AND IN ANY CASE GOU NEEDS TO SHORE UP ITS IMAGE WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND NOT RELY TOO HEAVILY ON ANY PARTICULAR GROUP WITHIN A FOREIGN COUNTRY. ETIANG SAID HE AGREED WITH THESE VIEWS AND HAD SO ADVISED AMIN.

5. MEMCON BEING POUCHED AF/ E AND AID/ W.
KEELEY

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